one of the "smartest" audiences that gather in New York in the dramatic season is to be found at the several entertainments given by the Comedy Club at Carnegie Lyceum, the third in a series of four having just been held. Every seat is taken, the boxes are sub-

scribed for weeks in advance, and in consequence no black holes yawn emptily to the gaze of spectators and players.

Every one knows every one else, and between the acts the foyers and corridors resemble a reception in a private house; conversation is intimate and there are no inquiring looks as to the social status of the passerby. A huge punch howl seems to be replenished from some hidden spring, as no ordinary ways of lling it are noted. Whatever its secret, it is extremely popular, and near it are butterfly flocks of gayly gowned young women, their chiffon scarfs of blue, pink, maive ivory and ebony floating about it ke the wings of bright plumaged birds. Poxes are festooned in garlands of green and flowers are placed here and there. he criticisms heard by an eavesdropare friendly, as would naturally prewhere actors and actresses are hends of the big family, but they are

THE COMEDY CLUB NEW YORK'S and feeling under it to fulfil her belated duty she did not find them. There was no possibility of a mistake; she had placed them there just half an hour before. The stateroom was dark. She turned on the light, threw back both pillows. and tore the mattress off the bed, thinking they might have slipped down beneath the clothes, but continued search did not disclose them. Steward and stewardess were called and finally the news flew about the ship. The little deck party filled the stateroom, offering advice and help. Should or should not a search of every one on the ship be made? The question was asked and a vote taken. It was finally decided to wait until morn ing. Dinner was eaten and the evening passed with an accompaniment of interrogations. The owner of the necklace confessed that she heard the term 'careless' used a hundred times and a hundred

did not bring back the missing jewels. "Late that night one of the party, a oung woman who had been most enhusiastic in her admiration of the necklace, went to her stateroom and commenced to prepare for bed. Tossing back the pillow to turn down the clothes, she saw a small piece of muslin, and a second after opening it a flash of jewels met her eyes. How did they get there? She did not know, but there they were. Throwing on her clothes, she rushed to the stateroom of the owner, whom she found sitting on the edge of the berth weeping bitterly. The explanation of one of the party who were immediately discriminating. Amateur by or- summoned, a member with a mathganization, the Comedy Club is not so in ematical mind, was undoubtedly the right

ANATEUR ACTING AT ITS BEST to hear the history of other jewels, had not stopped to lock her own jewels away but had thrust them under the pillow, and feeling under it to fulfil her belated Jacob Wendell, Jr., who is now taking the new first page of the page

the part of the Dog in "The Blue Bird," was for fourteen years a member of the executive committee of the Comedy, and he has admitted that his pleasure in his present work is rather dimmed at times by the memories of the good old amateur days and the fact that his professional career precludes his acting again at any

of the Comedy evenings.

Though the club has moved about from time to time during its existence each change has meant bigger quarters and greater popularity. Its final move to the Carnegie Lyceum was made in the winter of 1905 and already there is talk of accommodations of more generous proportions, for financially the club has never been better off than at present, according to the statement made by one of the charter members. There are 100 active and 200 associate members. The imes admitted her culpability, but that tax on the active member is \$20 a year, which entitles him to six tickets for one night of each series of plays presented during the season. The associate mem ber pays \$30 for the same privilege. Each play is presented on four consecutive nights, and during the winter there are three series, one in December, one in February before Lent and one in April as soon after Easter as possible.

There is no trouble in securing ar udience, a problem agitating the legitimate drama, it would seem, from the talk devoted to the subject at present The problem that the Comedy has to meet is to take care of the spectators entitled to admission. To obtain one of the coveted Comedy tickets is a matter for much social wirepulling and consequent disappointment.

The first president of the Comedy Club was Samuel H. Hoppin, elected in 1884; the first secretary and treasurer was James B. Ludlow, the first stage manager Alexander T. Mason, appointed the same year. A vice-president was not added to the roster until 1889, when Henry Chauncey, Jr., was selected. The present president is Langdon Geer, the vicepresident and general stage manager James Barnes, the secretary Henry G. Bartol and the treasurer Willard V. King. There is a committee on admissions and an executive committee.

There are no women members, the rôles relegated to them being filled by invitation, although it often happens that a special woman's work is so pleasing to the club committee that she is asked again and again, until it would seem that her place was firmly fixed as a permanent attraction.

The position of stage manager is so arduous, sometimes twenty or more rehearsals preceding a performance, that a new one is selected by the executive committee for each production. He has entire control of all rehearsals and performances and it is conceded by one of the women who has played several times by invitation that the more of a martinet he is the better he is liked.

For the Comedy Club in spite of its name is a very serious minded organiza-tion and no fines have to be paid for un-punctuality or absence. All sorts of satisfactorily compare subjects of vary-Club's work outranks many of the Broadway productions while it may be true would be as unmeaning as to say that it falls below other presentations. One of these differences is pointed out by a member of many years standing, who says:

"The one thing that makes a play really

opportunities to find itself which cannot be afforded to a production put right on the legitimate stage here; the same applies to the amateur work, which must always be without that mode of disciplining. As in a family criticism is lists you may read, "A Scrap of Paper." "A Husband to Order." "Ours." "The plies to the amateur work, which must Montant, Robert Sturgis, Charles Boynciplining. As in a family criticism is nest you may read, A scrap of tager, perhaps more ready and searching than it would be if the work of strangers was under consideration. All of the plays "The Schoolmistress" by Pinero, who is under consideration. given at the Comedy are well known. a great favorite with the club which has the audience has seen professionals in followed this with "Dandy Dick" by the the rôles and comparisons must be made even if they are not voiced.

THE GLAD HAND IN THE BALCONY.

"But," continues the same member, "the Comedy Club is amateur in the best significance of the term; it works for love of the work and criticism is desired. The ambition of every individual is to have the ensemble as fine as possible; no single actor is featured; plays are chosen for the team' work that they require rather than those written for and to be played by 'stars.' The consequence is a general elevation rather than one of irregularity. The club in the beginning was fortunate to have as stage manager Fred Williams father of Fritz Williams, who afterward became a member of Daniel Frohman's

staff.
"It fills a desirable place, too, in regard sacrifices are made to attend these and to the presentation of plays which after no expenditure of time or strength is a brief season drop out of existence as taken into consideration. Comparisons far as New York is concerned, although between amateur and professional work they may still be in stock on the road are of course absurd, for one cannot Several of these plays have enjoyed a later popularity by way of the Comedy ing elements. Different conditions prevail Club's stage, a delight to those who have entirely and to say that the Comedy witnessed their withdrawal from the regular stage with disappointment."

The first of these was given February 13, 1885, at the University Club Theatre. this being a comedietta in one act by S. Theyre Smith, entitled "Which Is Which?" In this cast were Evart Wendell, senior member of the club in point of election: is the audience. The drama that comes to Edward F. Coward, Edward P. Sperry.

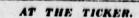
Montague and Miss Alice Witherspoon. Later came "Withered Leaves," in which Mrs. Wilber Bloodgood played with A. P. same author, and "The Hobby Horse. Bronson Howard has been represented several times, "One of Our Girls" being an early success on the comedy stage, as was Gillette's "All the Comforts of Home."

All agree that "Jim the Penman" wa the greatest favorite of any play produced. "Old Heidelberg" has proved a prime winner, as well as "The Second in Command," "Lady Clancarty" and "Sweet Lavender." Many of the plays were loaned by Daniel Frohman outright, but for several the club has paid as high as \$250 for the privilege of reproduction.

A striking feature of the club's proluctions to the observer is the perfection of stage fittings and costuming. Both are

in accord with the personalities depicted exaggeration is frowned upon. The eroine does not wear a gown that distracts the attention of every one in the audience from the lines and finds her at the psychic moment wondering if she is turned the right way to show a certain curve. The room is a lived in room where books and furniture are real, the framing so perfect that you do not think about it at all except to note its suit

The second play of this year, given February 22, 23, 24 and 25, marks the 217th, 218th, 219th and 220th performances by the Comedy Club. From 1,200 to 1,400 spectators witnessed it each night of the



Women Discuss Stocks and the Novic Jabs a Pin Into the Tape. A Broker's office. Door marked Private.
Time: 10 A. M. Group of women around ticker; others removing hate and wrape One late comer to another, sollo voce,

Of course you might know she has taken my seat. I believe she sits up all night in order to grab the best place. [Advancing with a set shile.] Well, how is the market this morning?

[Everybody too busy clawing the tape to answer.]
Old Timer (gruffly)—Opened off; nothing doin' these days; marking time.
Optimist—Mercantile Marine and Wa-

bash are up; so are Kitty and Mop. Pessimist-Look out when the and dogs come out! It's a sure sign the upward movement is over.

Novice—Cats and dogs! [Looking around wildly.] Where?

Old Timer (saroastically)—You're evidently in the kindergarten class. Better learn the tape before you speculate in

Novice meekly subsides to the outer

Optimist-Oh, look! The market strengthening and it's just 11 o'clock. That's a good sign. Now, if it's up at 12 and 1 we're in for a bull movement. It's Friday, too, and stocks ought to go up to-morrow and Monday. Novice (timidly)—Why?

Optimist-Because in a bear market stocks usually go down on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Pessimist-Personally I prefer the short side, as it always makes more money for me; and then, too, there isn't the

interest to pay.

Late Comer—Long or short, it makes
no difference to me. I really prefer a
trader's market, as I always make it a rule to take a two point loss or profit. But of course [consciously] I speculate rather heavily—all across the board, in

Old Timer (sotto voce)-What airs She has about ten shares of some old stock that moves once a year. [Rings bell. Enter office boy.] Henry, buy me 200 Con. Gas at 140% and be quick about it.

it's such a quick mover.
Old Timer (sourly)—I know what I'm

Optimist (in an aside to Novice) guess she does. She deals in thousa

of shares. Novice-Why is that woman in the blue tailormade making those queer markings in that book?

Optimist-She keeps a chart of the rise and fall of stocks. She calls it a system. In spite of it, however, she has lost a fortune, but she still keeps at it. Novice -I must be daring and do some

thing! [Rings bell and goes to back of room to whisper something to Henry. All look curious.] Optimist, unable to restrain her curi-

osity What did you buy?
Novice, shyly Oh, I just stuck a pin in the tape with my eyes shut, and when I opened them it said "Reading," so I took that.

It's Reading that is putting this market down! It's going down like mad now! Put in a stop order! You had better

Novice-Straddle! Late Confer-Sell as well as buy. Novice-[confused] Oh, dear, what shall do? [Ringing the bell and running to meet Henry. I want to get out of Read

Henry-At the market? Novice Yes I didn't know-anyway Old Timer-What a fool! Teach her

Late Comer [aside] - What a fiendis creature Old Timer is. She actually eems glad when any of us loses.

Optimist There comes Mrs. Dodger

SPRING'S HERE; LET'S GARDEN

NEW YORK WOMEN RESPOND TO MR. PARSONDS CALL.

Trachers Especially Enger to Take the Aprilit Garden Course—It Combits of Ten Lessons and is Practical as Well as Theoretical, With Real Planting.

In the spring the commuter's fancy eadly turns to thoughts of radishes, lettuce, young onlone and other things which are supposed to grow in suburban back yards but generally don't. For this and spring sadness the New York Univer-is offering a new kind of treatment. On March 4 began a series of

talks and demonstrations to be given on successive Saturday afternoons in the university building in Washington Square. The official title of the series is the spring garden course, and it is described as especially adapted for commuters having plots of ground which they desire to culti-

This first aid to the gardening commuter was inaugurated two years ago, when Henry Griscom Parsons was asked by the university to give a single spring garden lecture for the benefit of would-be folks with a hoe. Nobody knew just how it would strike the amateur gardners, but the leading a strike the amateur gardners, but the lecture, or rather talk, was announced, a fee of 50 cents was attached and Mr. Parsons awaited developments. Exactly 126 men and women, mostly women.

That first talk was given in May at the university's model garden at 180th street and Aqueduct avenue. It was on spading and planting and was about one-third talk and two-thirds action. There are fifty-six plots in that garden, so each plot was divided in half to make enough to go around. The people taking the lesson came not only from the city itself but rom New Jersey, Long Island and as far up the river as Yonkers.

The occupation of each person was learned and a tabulated statement compiled. Apparently public school teachers like to make other things beside the young idea to shoot, for there were eighty of them in the class. Fourteen others were put, down as society women." Everybody seemed so pleased with the chance to learn just how to spede and to plant that last year the course was ex-tended. The number of talks was inreased to four and the price went up to a dollar a lesson.

This brought out eighty-six amateur gardeners. "Society women," which seems to be the classification adopted for those who have no paid occupation. again rallied in force. There were teachers of course and nurses, clerks, social workers, hospital workers and even a lone real estate man. The four talks were in May and besides spading and planting included weeding, thinning and so on.

and so on.

This year the regular fee for the ten lessons is \$10, but it is cut in half for teachers, nurses, librarians, clerks and some others. The talks at the university building will be from 3:45to 5:15 o'clock in the afternoon. Each will divided into two parts, the first half will be assentially practical, the second more scientific. In the first lecture Mr. Parsons described the necessary garden tools and their uses. For the second part of the lecture he talked of the soil, what, it is, how formed and how different kinds of soil are to be treated.

Then come seven lectures as follows:

March 18—Preparing the soil. Air and

March 18-Preparing the soil. Air and

some of its activities.

March 25—Garden plans. Fences. Windbreaks. Water and what it means to the April 1-Vegetables and flowers. Testing seeds. Sunlight and its power.

April 8-Planting and transplanting. Fer-April 15 — What to do next, with some dont's.
Earthworms.
April 22—Continual harvests. When and

ow to gather them. Insects.

April 29—Uses for garden products. Sum-

Optimist—There comes Mrs. Dodger.
Now perhaps my luck will change. I always make when she drops in. [Greets Mrs. Dodger effusively.]
One of the others—Please don't touch that pencil! That's my mascot. My luck will be awful if you put it on the other side of the ticker.
[Enter Henry. Hands paper to Novice.] Henry—You sold 500 at 160 and covered at 157.
Novice [faintly]—Covered! I don't understand. How much did I lose.
All—LOSE! You made \$1,500! What luck!!

Tableau.

MEN'S HANDS.

Make Trauble in Posing for Pictures,

Make Trauble in Posing for Pictures,

Now ladies, will soon as a cutual demonstrations given at the 180th street garden. The come on May 6 will be on planting! The class will also be abown how to spread fertilizer and how to spade it in. The last lesson does not come until June 3. by which date the garden will be ready for a practical object lesson in weeding, thinning, transplanting, cultivating and, in the case of the radishes planted at the May lesson, gathering.

Mr. Parsons says that in these outdoor practical lessons they use just the same intended that have been worked out for teaching children in the school gardens.

There is no dawdling, no dropping into conventional, grownup forms, such as "Now ladies, will you kindly do this?"



LEADING LADIES IN A BOX.

Molluse," "Cousin Kate," &c.

reading aloud this very play: We got to gressions of this sort are one of the hat talking about necklaces and jewels and interludes at the Comedy evenings.

nterest to the feminine mind.

he had a necklace in her stateroom which purpose. the would show-us. There was a history ked away in an inner compartment.

ambition or scope, and the comparisons one. The staterooms of the two women made show study and appreciation of corresponded exactly in position but were on opposite sides of the ship. Every This particular play, witnessed by one knows on shipboard how easily the wrong turning is made, and the owner by Hubert Henry Davies, author of "The admitted that coming hastily from the deck, using a companionway that she Nearly every woman who owns a dia-seldom walked down, she had probably d necklace has lost it at some time moved to the right instead of the left other, and as there are several on exhi- rushed into what she supposed was her tion at the entertainment the stories own room, and deposited the necklace oncerning recovery and theft might act under a strange pillow. So what might is inspiration to the author for another have ended most disastrously if a search rama could he have overheard the re- had been determined on for the innocent

finder was happily terminated." For example, one of a box party relates The necklace story is a slight digression transoceanic experience: "We were from the description of the Comedy Club's ting on the deck and somebody was reason for being, but conversational digressions of this sort are one of the happy

elling stories of one kind and another the Comedy Club, besides being the best known of all amateur organizations in New York, is the doyen in point of years. One of the group, a woman of wealth having witnessed the rise and fall of hunand artistic tastes, got up finally and said dreds of societies formed for a similar

During those years many whose youth but it which she related after her re- ful efforts were first made under the The necklace was wrapped in a Comedy Club's auspices have graduated to wider if not more satisfactory fields of her treasure box which was in of dramatic action. Among these are in her steamer trunk, carefully Elsie de Wolfe, who made her initial After it had passed from hand to hand Robe, now Mrs. Daniel Payne Griswold; somebody else commenced to tell another Suzafine Sheldon, a popular actress on ory which a third person interrupted the London stage and wife of Harry Ainsindway begging the first named to take ley, who made his American appearance he necklace back immediately for fear here acting as lead with Maude Adams. something might happen to it. The Miss Sheldon appeared at the Comedy owner, anxious to hear the sequel of the Club in "Sweet Lavender," given at the interrupted tale, rushed down stairs and Berkeley Lyceum in February, 1893, her having stowed the necklace away returned sister, now Mrs. Anthony Hope, being and the conversation went on until, the in the audience. Elsie de Wolfe played first bell for dinner sounding, there was in "A Cup of Tea" and "Withered Leaves, both presented at the University Club the owner of the necklace, anxious Theatre, and in "Sunshine," given at the



AT THE COMEDY CLUB

TAX ON BACHELORS. He No Dependent Children. "If every bachelor could give \$50 there would need be no dependent children."

Charities Aid Association. "Some bache-lors are now taking care of from one to six children and some childless couples There is a reason, though, why we look to the bachelors. There is a bachelor

in this city who has interested himself

a scamper of belated vovagers.

Why are grandfather clocks made other title knowledge and of long ac-

That seems at first a question very times hall clocks were made in the greatest are very simple, some are very elaborate. says Miss Mary Vida Clark of the State asy to answer, but when the man to numbers. There were not so many on the Some have a simple, old time strike. had been put came to think Continent, but in England they were some are equipped with musical chimes, moment, why, really he wasn't to be found in many old homes; clocks "But why is the hall clock made tail?" sure, and he put the question to with works of heavy brass, fine solid Well, we might be disposed to think that are supporting whole families.

brought by some of the earlier settlers depending weights, but I fancy we should urious," said the clockmaker, to this country, and here also there were discover the real reason for its height in no less than six children, and he speci

to this country, and here also there were made in those earlier days hall clocks it time honored, for centre, which were cheaper than brass, works with plates of oak, which so country at least, very commonly as grandfather clock, a name that for a song.

"Then also they put Black Forest clocks imported from Germany, the familiar way on the wall' clocks that you fasten to the by many people applied it is clocks, the old familiar tall like the one described iff the song, and the clocks, the old familiar tall is the correct title of clocks. And then in due time they came to make here fine hall clocks with brass works and with fine they came to make here fine hall clocks with brass works and with fine they came to make here fine hall clocks and then into hall clocks. And then in due time they came to make here fine hall clocks with brass works and with fine they came to make here fine hall clocks with brass works and with fine they came to make here fine hall clocks with brass works and with fine they came to make here fine hall clocks with brass works and with fine they came to make here fine hall clocks with brass works and with fine they came to make here fine hall clocks with brass works and with fine they came the summer of the transfer of the state (harding of the tast they should all be listed given the hall, though it may have been thall, though it may have been of the state (harding of the strength of the state (harding of the strength of the state (harding of the strength of the strength of the state (harding of the work of the State (harding of the strength of the strength of the strength of the strength

THE GRANDFATHER'S CLOCK. father's clocks which never, to my knowl- "Nowadays hall clocks are made in This Name Applied Only Within Recent were known by that name, but which now of designs, old and new; reproductions If They Would Pay 850 Each There Would like two little girls placed in homes. There to many people may be known by no of quaint old styles and of various periods, English and Colonial, and clocks of vari-"England is the country in which in old ous modern styles. Some of these clocks

"But why is the hall clock made tail? clockmaker, a man with an old clocks that kept good time.

showledge and of long ac
"From England such clocks were its case its long pendulum and its long